

ABSTRACT

WA-I-207

Cool Brook Farm

Hagerstown Vicinity

private

Late 18th Century

The Cool Brook Farm complex consists of what appears to be a late 18th century limestone dwelling, a complex of stone outbuildings set directly over a spring and a 20th century frame dairy barn. Together this group provides an example of an early Washington County farmstead utilizing the native limestone as its primary building material. The use of limestone for construction purposes is an important aspect in the development of the regional architecture in the Cumberland Valley. This particular complex was once the center of a farm of more than 500 acres.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-I-207
District 9
Map 11
Parcel 13

2201965204

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cool Brook Farm

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Lehman's Mill Road, East of Marsh Pike

CITY, TOWN

☒ VICINITY OF Hagerstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Abram E. Shank

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Route # 8, Box 74

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21740

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: 503

Folio #: 132

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust Survey # 3066

DATE

Summer 1967

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

7 DESCRIPTION

WA-I-207

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED < 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This agricultural complex known for many years as Cool Brook Farm, is located on the north side of Lehman's Mill Road about one half mile east of the Marsh Pike, north of Hagerstown in Washington County, Maryland. The house is situated on a gentle slope and faces south.

The dwelling is a two story, five bay structure built of roughly coursed local limestone. Decorative exterior masonry consists of flat arches of stone above openings at the first story level. A two story, four bay el also of stone construction extends to the rear or north. This wing, moved to its present location in recent years, originally was set on an axis with the main dwelling and attached to its east end.

Windows toward the east end of the house are set more closely together than openings in the west half. Where original window frames remain they are wide with quarter round trim. Nine over nine pane double hung sashes are present at the first story level while nine over six pane sashes are used at the second story. Most windows are flanked with shutters which are louvered at the first story and have recessed panels at the upper level windows.

The main entrance with its raised panel door is located in the center bay of the front elevation. It is sheltered by a one story shed roofed porch.

The roof is covered with slates and extends beyond the end walls of the house. Brick chimneys are located inside each gable end. A modern stone chimney extends from inside the end wall of the el.

Located northeast of the dwelling are two adjoining stone outbuildings. The more southerly structure is one and a half stories high and two bays in length. Its extensive roof area is covered with sheet metal. This building is situated directly over a spring of water and has a fireplace in its south end wall east of the roof peak. The ceiling in this structure consists of heavy hewn joists laid side by side and topped with a layer of rocks and mortar. A door is located high in the south gable. Attached to this building is a slightly larger stone structure of similar proportions. According to the present owner this complex is said to have been a distillery at one time.

North of these buildings is a 20th century frame dairy barn having a gambrel roof topped with metal ventilators. Other outbuildings related to agricultural use are located nearby.

The buildings appear to be in excellent condition and are located on a tract containing 205.01 acres, part of a grant called "Turkey Buzzard" surveyed in 1791 for Thomas Bell (Belt).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

SIGNIFICANCE

WA-I-207

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cool Brook Farm complex consisting of what appears to be a late 18th century limestone dwelling, a complex of stone outbuildings set directly over a spring and a 20th century frame dairy barn. Together this group provides an example of an early Washington County farmstead utilizing the native limestone as its primary building material. The use of limestone for construction purposes is an important aspect in the development of the regional architecture in the Cumberland Valley. This particular complex was once the center of a farm of more than 500 acres.

On September 8, 1791, a warrent of resurvey was granted to Thomas Bell (Belt) to allow him to incorporate into one tract several adjoining pieces of land he had acquired along with any vacancies that remained among them. The tracts to be resurveyed included the "Resurvey on Long Meadows Enlarged," "Part of Amendment" and "Part of Well Meant." The entire tract surveyed for Thomas Bell contained 512 3/8 acres and was named "Turkey Buzzard." Thomas Bell had acquired the several tracts making up Turkey Buzzard in various transactions taking place over a period of years.

It seems clear that Thomas Bell resided on the property and probably built at least part of the house on Cool Brook Farm. A dwelling is depicted on this site on Charles Varle's 1808 map of Frederick and Washington Counties.

In his will probated December 9, 1823, Thomas Belt leaves his plantation to his nephew, Thomas Walter Belt of Baltimore, noting that the property on which he had formerly resided was now under lease to Barton Brun (Bean). (Will Liber C, page 218). In 1827, Thomas Walter Belt sold the plantation, then containing 473 acres to George I. Harry (II/360). After Harry's death, his executors sold the farm to Dr. Dennis Murphey (IN9/89). Within the next ten years the farm changed hands three times with the building being set off in a separate 236 acre tract (IN10/791, IN14/51, IN17/493). The family of the present owner acquired the farm in 1864 for \$16,583.43. It has descended through the Shank family as recorded in the following deeds: 108/472, 162/106, 187/378, 187/379, 483/116, 451/85, 503/131, 503/132.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bell, Herbert C., History of Leitersburg District. Leitersburg, Md: The Author, 1908.
 Varle', Charles, A Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, 1808.
 Washington County Land Records.
 Washington County Patent Records.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 205.01 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Washington County Historical Sites Survey

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street

TELEPHONE

791-3065

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438



PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT - WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



100-10-100

100-10-100

100-10-100

PAULA STONER DICKEY
100-10-100 WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



Feb 5 2017

ABC

George Kone

SEAN DICKY
WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WH-I-207

S.C. - CUBA/PLP/15

June, 1964

LAURA STONER DICKY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY